

THE OHIO ORGAN OF THE TEMPERANCE REFORM

Cincinnati, February 4, 1853.

TERMS:

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CALEB CLARK,

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Keep it before the People.

The following resolution, adopted at the State Temperance Convention, which convened in Columbus, O., on the 5th inst., should not be lost sight of by the temperance men in our State:

"Resolved, That a general and systematic support of the TEMPERANCE PRESS of Ohio, is indispensable to our success."

TO AGENTS.

Those who have sent us clubs, may continue to add single subscribers to them during the year, at the club price. We request all sending us subscribers to write in plain style the name, address, &c.

[Postmasters, and others, who send us requests to change the address of subscribers, will please state, particularly, to what address we had previously been sending such papers.

OFFICE OF G. S. OF S. OF T. OF OHIO,
Circleville, Jan. 26, 1853.

The following donations have been received at this office, to be appropriated to the payment of the indebtedness of the G. Division:

Washington Div., No. 337,	\$2.00
Montgomery " " 48,	74
Newton Falls, " 534,	2.00
California " " 646,	2.00
Wayne " " 39,	1.00
WM. BREMIGAN, G. S.	

Prospects in Ohio.

The friends of Temperance in our noble State, have every thing to encourage, and nothing to discourage them. The ball has been set in motion, and to expect to stay it short of a complete triumph of the cherished principles of the hardy Buckeye sons, is as irrational as to expect that the puny arm of man could stay the sun in his majestic course. The mist which the enemies of temperance have hitherto caused to rise up and obscure its brightness, are beginning to sink to the earthly grossness whence they sprang, and the bright light of truth is giving our people everywhere to see that their laws must be framed in accordance with the principles of justice to all, and not moulded and fashioned to suit the whims of a few interested persons. Realizing this, the people are beginning to see the necessity of acting through the ballot-box. They have in vain petitioned our Legislature for a law to meet their wishes upon this subject. To expect men, however, who spend their nights in potations of bacchanalian revelry, to rise from their festive board, and with distempered brain enact pure and stringent laws upon the subject of Temperance, is absurd. Next winter, we will have the pleasure of seeing our Legislative Halls adorned with men of known purity, and then we may expect wholesome laws. This result is inevitable. The PEOPLE have said it, and they mean what they say. We receive hundreds of letters almost weekly, from every part of the State, every one of which breathe the right spirit, and show conclusively that the seed has taken deep root, and that the days of the reign of King Alcohol are drawing to an end.

Sumptuary Laws.

In these days of increasing light and knowledge, when the public attention is being directed to the outrages and villainies of the liquor traffic, the friends of this traffic resort to every kind of subterfuge, and give currency to every possible opinion, to save it from the gathering wrath of popular sentiment. It is charged that the prohibitory law of Maine and other States, is of a sumptuary character, and men who ought to know better have publicly spoken of it as such, for the purpose of giving these laws a bad name. What are sumptuary laws? Blackstone says, "they are laws against luxury, and extravagant expenses in dress, diet and the like." In the reign of Edward the Third, in England, there was a law passed which declared that no man should be served at dinner or supper with more than two courses, except upon some great holiday, when he might have three. In the reigns of Edward the Fourth and Henry the Eighth, laws were passed against wearing piked shoes and long coats. These were sumptuary laws, which Webster defines to be "such as restrain or limit the expenses of the citizen in apparel, food, furniture, &c."

Do these definitions fit the Maine Law? It does not prescribe what a man shall eat, or what he shall drink, or wherewithal he shall be clothed, or what he shall not eat, drink or wear. Any man or woman in Maine may get as drunk as Chloe every day, and be as beast-like as the vilest enemy of legal enactment can be, and this law does not reach his case. It simply says what he shall not make an article of commerce, he shall not sell intoxicating poisons. We have a law in Ohio against selling arsenic without first putting a given amount of coloring matter into the poison. This does not prohibit any citizen (if he is fool enough to do it) from taking any quantity of it into his stomach.

Laws are enacted and enforced against selling tainted meat in market; yet a man may feast upon carrion to his heart's content.

During the prevalence of epidemics, it has been customary to prohibit the sale of cucumbers, fish, cabbage, &c., &c., in order that the public health may not be unnecessarily periled; yet any man who chooses to indulge in these luxuries, and run the risk of being handed over to the undertaker and sexton, can do so without violating the statute. Temptations inducements shall not be held out to men to buy and use such things as are known to induce or aggravate infestation.

So, a man may live and die in a festering, interminable nuisance, but he shall not expose others to the same. He may have for his own gratification obscene books and histories, but he shall not peril the morals of the neighborhood, by offering them for sale.

There is a wide difference between using a thing ourselves and selling it to others.

If it was true that a law prohibiting the liquor traffic is a sumptuary law, it is by no means a settled question that it would be wrong. Blackstone

says, "concerning the general utility of such laws to a State, there is much controversy among political writers." Baron Montesquieu says, that "luxury is necessary in Monarchies, but ruinous to Democracies." Blackstone says again, "It is a dubious question how far private luxury is a public evil, and as such cognizable by public laws."

But we think it will be unnecessary to discuss this "dubious question," as it must be apparent to every sensible man, that the Maine Law is as far from being a sumptuary law, as a drunkard is from heaven.

Mass Meeting at Columbus, Ohio.

Another grand demonstration of the friends of temperance took place at Columbus, yesterday, at the head of which we observe the names of some of the most influential men of that city.

The object of this meeting was, to organize a TEMPERANCE LEAGUE for the county of Franklin, with Branches in the several townships, and to take such other measures as may be deemed advisable to bring the subject of prohibitory legislation fully and fairly before every voter in the county, with a view of securing the election of members to the next legislature pledged to support a law similar in efficiency to the Maine Liquor Law.

This is a most praiseworthy move, and we wish to see a similar one in every county in the State. This is the only way to fully carry out the letter and spirit of the late resolutions adopted at Columbus. Our strength cannot be brought to bear upon this subject, unless we are united. To effect this, a thorough organization in every township must be had. In this case, the political parties will have to give us such men as are in this respect worthy of our suffrage, or we can forthwith nominate them ourselves. This will be our only alternative. Then let the example set by our good brethren at Columbus, be followed by all the other counties of our State, and we will present a phalanx at the next election, at once formidable and victorious.

"A Little Tight."

We remonstrated with a young man of fine promise about indulging in the social glass. He replied, "I do not drink enough to hurt me; when I find myself going into excess, I will quit right square off." We told him that we were not ignorant of the fact that he had been drunk. In a laughing way he responded, "Oh, well I have been a little tight two or three times, but that is nothing." Day by day we saw the demon winding thread after thread of the cruel bond of appetite about him, and he still thought there was no danger. At length he waked up to the unwelcome truth that he was a drunkard. We appealed again to our young and beloved friend, and he declared that he could not restrain himself, that he had no power to resist the tempter. That friend is now in the grave of the drunkard. Oh, young man, just forming habits of life, we beseech you pause and reflect before you quaff the first glass of the damning poison! Dash it down!

The Rhode Island Liquor Law-- Judge Curtis's Decision.

The public has been led to suppose, from remarks appearing in the newspapers of the day, that the Liquor Law of Rhode Island had been declared inconsistent with the Constitution of the State or of the United States, and its entire nullity proclaimed by Judge Curtis, of the U. S. Supreme Court. This is said by a writer in the Providence Journal to be erroneous. That writer says: Judge Curtis does not declare, or even intimate, that the law is in conflict with the Constitution of the United States.

He does not declare or intimate that the main principle of the law is in conflict with the Constitution of our own State. He simply declares that some of the processes by which the end is reached, under the present law, are in conflict with certain articles of our State Constitution.

The decision does not touch manufacturers of spirits, and no man is safe in presuming that the law, or any part of it is overthrown.

As in all questions of conflict between the Constitution of the State and the acts of the Legislature, are equally within the jurisdiction of the judges of the State Courts, as of those of the United States, and as the Supreme Court of the State has unanimously declared the law to be constitutional, it would appear that so far from being nullified, the law is sustained to the extent that a breach of its provisions can scarcely be committed with safety.—Christian Press.

Judges of Courts, and Governors, are waking up the people to the consideration of the liquor traffic, most gloriously.

The Secular Press, by giving their versions of decisions, are exciting their readers to inquiry, and the more searching the inquiries, the more surely will the right and truth prevail. We have not yet been fortunate enough to see the decision of Judge Curtis, but we apprehend that it is substantially as given above. If so, this will not hurt very badly.

Whatever his decision may be, we do not fear the ultimate result. The great people in this country govern by divine right, and their will is omnipotent, however long baffled and thwarted by their servants "clothed in a little brief authority."

County Convention.

A Convention of the friends of Temperance, of Hamilton county, will take place at Foster's Hall, corner 5th and Walnut st., Cincinnati, on the 21st of the present month. It is earnestly requested that every part of the county be fully represented upon this occasion, as business of the utmost importance will engage the attention of the Convention. Let there be a general attendance.

The following persons were appointed a committee by Cincinnati Div., No. 2, to act with a similar one that may be appointed by the Ohio Div., No. 1, to make arrangements for the great Convention, viz: J. F. Cunningham, M. B. Masson, A. F. Gorroutte, Wm. Addis, John Waggoner, Thompson Neave, and E. M. Gregory.

Wm. T. Coggsball.

This gentleman, formerly connected with the press in this city, is lecturing in Northern Ohio in favor of the Maine Law. Success attend the Brother in his blessed work. He is a good speaker, and his efforts will do great good. He will lecture in this city next week.